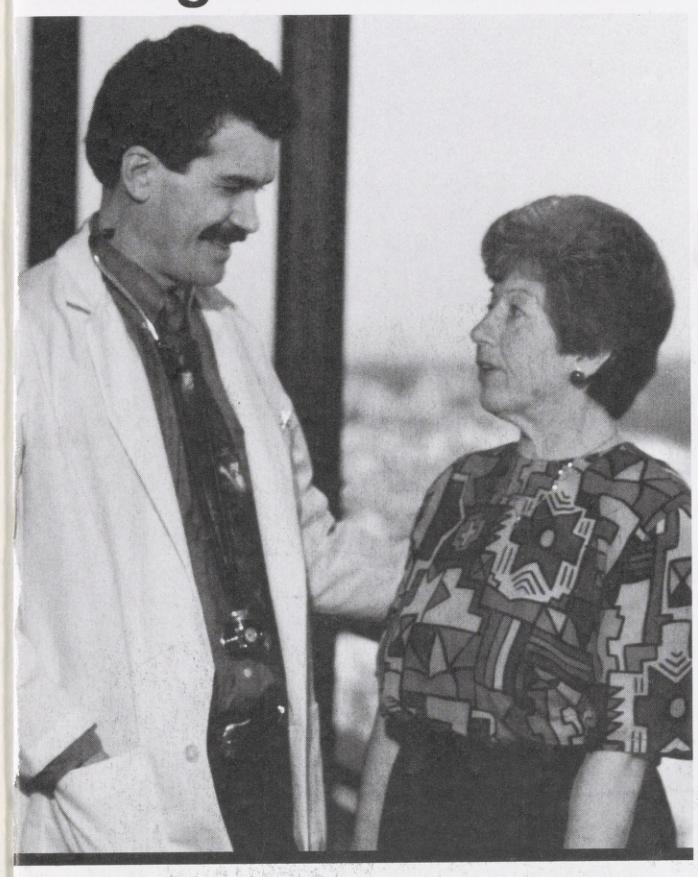
January/February 1994 Volume 19, Number 1

News for You

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California, San Francisco

UCSF

UCSF Kicks Off Cancer Awareness Program for Latinos



Alex Viarnés

"En Accion" is enlisting patient role models, such as Ana Maria Lopez, 68, (right) who can personalize the subject of cancer and train health care workers how to broach the sensitive subject to their clients. Lopez was diagnosed with breast cancer nearly two years ago, but today she says she's lucky and healthy, due to early detection. With her is Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD.

Many Latinos hold a fatalistic view of cancer or have misconceptions about the disease, and therefore do not seek screening or early treatment. And because of this, many often die from the disease.

UCSF researchers and health care workers hope to change that trend with a new program — "En Accion Contra el Cancer" — which will make Latinos more aware of cancer and encourage them to take advantage of screening tests. The program will target the more than 100,000 Latinos in San Francisco and hopes to eventually reduce the number of cancer cases and deaths in that community.

Compared to Anglos, Latinos have a lower incidence of cancer, but their mortality rates are high. One reason is that their cancers are often diagnosed after the disease has spread too far, says Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD, principal investigator of the program.

In California, for example, 43 percent of breast cancer cases among Latino women were diagnosed at a late stage, compared to 32 percent among white women. Eleven percent of cervical cancers and 35 percent of prostate cancers in Latinos are diagnosed late, compared to 8 percent and 30 percent, respectively, in whites, according to data compiled by the California Tumor Registry.

The new UCSF "En Accion" program will promote among the Latino community screening for breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate cancers; and reduction of cancer risk behaviors, such as smoking, excessive alcohol intake, dietary fat intake, unsafe sexual practices, and sun and environmental exposure.

The UCSF project is conducted in collaboration with the Northern California Cancer Center and funded by the National Cancer Institute. For more information on the En Accion project call 476-6941 or 597-9391.

Physicians: Look First for "Hidden Bleeding"

Gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding is a common factor in iron deficiency anemia. However, because of past studies physicians have believed that the primary cause was bleeding from the lower GI tract — most often cancer of the large intestine.

Now, a new UCSF study at SFGH by Don C. Rockey, MD, shows that a common cause of this kind of anemia is "hidden bleeding," particularly from the upper GI tract, caused by acid-peptic disorders such as duodenal or gastric ulcers.

The usual procedure for diagnosing a gastrointestinal disorder in patients who manifest iron deficiency anemia is to begin with an examination of the lower bowel by performing a colonoscopy, Rockey points out. As a result of this study, Rockey and co-author John P. Cello, MD, suggest that if a patient comes to a physician with upper GI problems and possible iron deficiency anemia, the physician should first evaluate the upper GI tract. If such an investigation identifies a lesion, this saves the patient the discomfort and expense of further testing. "Start where the symptoms are and cut out unnecessary tests. We have had an explosion of tests and new technology. This could be a cost-effective way to care for patients," says Rockey.

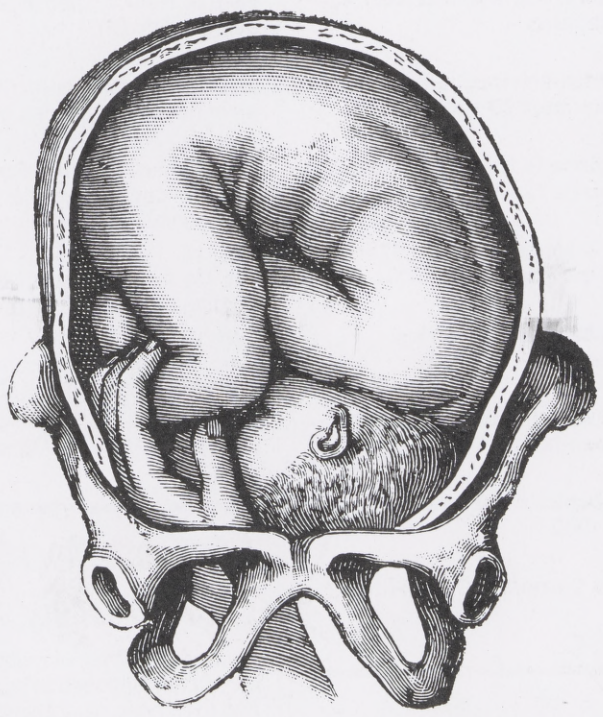
Prenatal Drug for Premature Labor May Harm Fetus

A drug used for 20 years to stop premature labor may seriously harm the babies it is intended to help, according to a new study by UCSF researchers.

UCSF pediatrician Ronald I. Clyman, MD, says that this is the first in-depth study examining the effects of the drug — indomethacin — on such infants. Other studies focusing on older babies have shown no serious side effects.

Indomethacin and other drugs to control preterm labor are prescribed widely by doctors because premature birth is the primary cause of major health problems and death in newborns, Clyman says. In the study, babies born between 24 and 30 weeks and exposed to the drug were three times more likely to develop serious health problems, including a significantly higher incidence of bowel tissue disease, heart problems, bleeding in the brain, and kidney dysfunction. Although some of these disorders can be treated successfully, others can lead to life-long problems or be life-threatening.

"It is especially important that careful evaluation be made of the risk versus benefit of this medical treatment," Clyman says.



In Brief

Experimental Alzheimer's Treatment to be Tested

Researchers at the UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging are looking for people with a mild or moderate form of Alzheimer's to take part in studies of two experimental drug treatments for the disease.

The drugs — physostigmine and besipirdine hydrochloride (HP 749) — in previous studies have been shown to improve memory and concentration of people suffering from Alzheimer's.

Both studies include 10 to 15 appointments at UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center over a 5-to 7-month period. Extensive testing will be done at the beginning and end of the studies at no cost to the patient. Participants will be randomly assigned to take one of the new drugs or a placebo.

For more information, call Meryl Brod, MD, or Hazel Outlaw at 750-4170.

New Book Highlights Science Partnership with Schools

UCSF's Science & Health Education Partnership program is one of the best of a growing movement that bridges the gap between those who practice science and those who teach science. UCSF has just published a book which describes SEP's programs. Entitled *Science Education Partnerships: Manual for Scientists and K-12 Teachers*, the book highlights successful educational activities such as one-on-one partnerships, the City Science workshops for elementary school teachers, the lesson plan contest for students, summer internships, and seminar series. The book also provides an overview of the current reform movement in science education. *Science Education Partnerships* is available for $14.95 plus $4 shipping and handling from Science Press, PO Box 31188, San Francisco, CA 94131. For further information call Science Press at 826-1626.

Prostate Cancer Prevention Study

Bay Area researchers are seeking men 55 or older for the nation's first prostate cancer prevention trial. Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, the nationwide Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial is designed to determine whether the drug finasteride can prevent prostate cancer — the second leading cause of cancer deaths in American men.

The trial will involve 18,000 men at 222 centers across the U.S., with half receiving finasteride and half a placebo. Perinchery Narayan, MD, will direct trials at UCSF, the VAMC and UCSF/Mount Zion. For more information, potential volunteers should call 750-6964 or 1-800-303-0043.

Women's Health 2000

What can women expect in the future in such areas as nutrition, cancer, HIV prevention, menopause, infertility, stress reduction, new reproductive technologies and parenting? Women's Health 2000, a full day of discussions on the latest on women's health, will be held on Saturday, March 12, in the Millberry Union Conference Center. Co-sponsored by UCSF and the Obstetrics & Gynecology Education & Research Foundation, the conference will allow women to choose from over 30 health profiles in either a half-day session for $45 or a full-day session, including lunch, for $70. Tentatively scheduled as keynote speaker is Donna Shalala, U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services. For further information call 591-9004.

More News for You
on the back page

What's happening

January/February 1
A bimonthly calend
events at UC San F

Special Events

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 4-6
Physicians for a Violence-Free Society's First Annual Conference. Explore topics related to health care & violence in society. Mark Hopkins Hotel, SF. Call 821-5686 to register.

Thurs., Feb. 10
Valentine's Gift Sale. Millberry Conf. Cntr, 500 Parnassus. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Black Heritage Month

UCSF commemorates Black Heritage Month with the following events co-sponsored by the Black Caucus. Call 476-8974 or 476-8310 for a complete schedule of events.

Fri., Feb. 4
Plaza Pulse Noontime Concert Series. Features Bay Area–grown reggae group "Creation." Sponsored by Arts & Performances. Plaza Grill, 500 Parnassus. Noon.

Sat., Feb. 5
Career Development Strategies for African-American Women. Learn how to achieve your goals. Sponsored by Women's Resource Cntr. $45-60. Rm. 130, Clinical Sciences, 521 Parnassus. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 476-5222.

Thurs., Feb. 10
A Call for Change: African-American Women & Reproductive Rights. Explore the critical issues surrounding the struggle for reproductive rights and equality. Sponsored by Women's Resource Cntr. $5. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 8-10 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 17
Rumors in the 'Hood. Discuss the fears African Americans have related to health care. Sponsored by Women's Resource Cntr. Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 19
Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the UCSF Black Caucus. Commemorate Black Heritage Month and celebrate the Black Caucus' anniversary at this dinner/dance. $35/$40. SF Airport Marriott, Burlingame. 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Call 476-1461 for tickets.

Wed., Feb. 23
Race & Cultural Determinism in the '90s. A Brown Bag Lecture on what determines social relations. Sponsored by Campus Tours & Speakers Bureau. Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon.

Fri., Feb. 25
1994 Black Nurses' Symposium. Call 476-4897 for details.

AIDS Programs

Sponsored by UCSF AIDS Health Project. For more information call 476-3902.

Living with HIV Public Forums. Call for complete information.

Individual Risk Assessments & Referrals. By appointment. Free.

Positives Being Positive. Anonymous support groups in the community for people who have tested HIV positive but have not developed symptoms of AIDS.

Other Support Groups. Drop-in & eight-week facilitated groups for men & women with AIDS or HIV infection, in a risk group or otherwise affected.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration

Honoring the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Call 476-6978 for a complete list of events.

Wed., Jan. 19
Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Festival. Entertainment, art, crafts & food honoring cultural diversity on campus. Millberry Gym, 500 Parnassus. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Physicians for a Violence-Free Society. A Brown Bag Lecture exploring the idea that preventing violence is good medicine. Sponsored by Campus Tours & Speakers Bureau. Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon.

Fri., Jan. 21
Border Control & Immigration. Panel discussion to include Arnoldo Garcia and Kathy Taktaquin, both from the National Network for Immigration & Refugee Rights. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 22
Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn & Other Identities. Anna Deavere Smith explores the human pain and compassion following the death of a Caribbean-American child struck by a car driven by a Hassidic man in 1991. Benefit for Women's Resource Cntr. Tickets: $21, $31 with reception. Berkeley Repertory Theatre. 8 p.m. Reception 10 p.m. Call 476-5222 for tickets.

Breast Cancer Screening

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from a mobile van that travels to convenient Bay Area locations. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $60. Your physician's approval is required, plus his/her full name, address & telephone number to assure results are mailed promptly. Appointments must be made at least one month to six weeks in advance. Find out when the van will be in your neighborhood by calling 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. A $60 mammography screening also is available at the UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center Radiology Department. Call 885-7465.

History of Health Sciences Lectures

The History of Health Sciences Department offers a retrospective of hospital life in this lecture series at noon on Tuesdays in Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Call 476-2766.

Jan. 4
Building Healing Environments for Nearly a Thousand Years: The Cyclical Nature of Hospital Architecture.

Jan. 11
Beginnings: Christian Hospitality & Monastic Infirmaries, 500-1200.

Jan. 18
Europe's Response to New Diseases: Isolation Hospitals, 1200-1600.

Jan. 25
Enlightenment & Medicalization of the Hospital: The Sick Poor, 1750-1800.

Feb. 1
Assembly-Line Medicine: The New "Healing Machines," 1790-1830.

Feb. 8
Modernization: Anesthesia & Antisepsis Come to the Hospital, 1840-1880.

Feb. 15
Birth of Megahospitals in Europe & America, 1880-1900.

Feb. 22
From Charity to Corporate Competition, 1900-1945.

Campus Tours

Call Campus Tours & Speakers Bureau at 476-4394 to arrange a tour.

Great Expectations Programs for Parents

The UCSF Birth Center offers special classes & video presentations for expectant parents on Wednesdays, unless otherwise noted. Rm. 326, Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus. Call 476-MOMS for registration & information. Also call for details about San Francisco Mothers of Twins Club.

Jan. 12 & Feb. 16
Childbirth & Parenting Film Series. Call for scheduled topics. 7-8:30 p.m.

Jan. 26
Infant & Child Emergency Care Workshop. $10 individuals/$15 couples. 6:30-9 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 5
Infant Nutrition/Development of Feeding Skills Workshop. $10 individuals/$15 couples. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Brown Bag Lectures

A series of free lectures held weekly at noon on Wednesdays in Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus (P); monthly on Thursdays in Rm. 125, UCSF-Mission Center Building (MCB), 1855 Folsom St.; and monthly on Tuesdays in Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion (MZ), 1600 Divisadero. Sponsored by Campus Tours & Speakers Bureau. Call 476-4394.

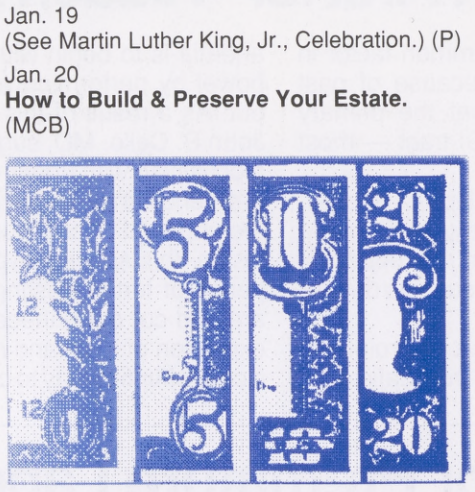
Jan. 5
The Wink of an Eye. Make a lasting good first impression. (P)

Jan. 12
The New Eugenics: Bad Science, Bad Politics. What happens to our ethical compass when we start changing the directions of the DNA map. (P)

Jan. 18
Facial Aesthetics Surgery: Turning Back the Hands of Time. (MZ)

Jan. 19
(See Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration.) (P)

Jan. 20
How to Build & Preserve Your Estate. (MCB)



Jan. 26
1993 New Tax Act: Sweeping Changes. (P)

Feb. 2
Real to Real. A special program on building self-esteem. (P)

Feb. 9
Overload-Overwhelm. Learn how to make an impact without being overwhelmed. (P)

Feb. 15
The Father-Daughter Dance. How patterns of father/daughter relationships influence later male/female relationships. (MZ)

Feb. 16
Oh, My Aching Neck! New techniques for treating cervical spine disorders. (P)

Feb. 17
Can We Talk? . . . Communication in the Workplace. (MCB)

Feb. 23
(See Black Heritage Month events.) (P)

Mount Zion Community Meetings

An ongoing series of meetings to keep the community apprised of activities of interest and to listen to neighborhood concerns. Held the fourth Tuesday of each month. Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion. 7 p.m. Next meetings: Jan. 25 and Feb. 22. Call 476-3206.

Women's Programs

Events sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, unless otherwise noted. Call 476-5222.

Sat., Jan. 8
Dating Through the Personals. Learn how to use the personals successfully. $45-60. Rm. 130, Clinical Sciences, 521 Parnassus. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 476-5222 to pre-register.

Sat., Jan. 22
Basic Home Repair Workshop — Electrical. $45-60. Rm. 517, Nursing Bldg., enter through 513 Parnassus. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 476-5222 to pre-register.

Tues., Jan. 25
When Enough Is Enough: Where Do We Draw the Line? Why do women decide to fight back? Sponsored by Rape Prev. Educ. Prog. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 27
One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Lesbians & the Law. Political & civil rights developments for lesbians. Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 1
Patently Offensive: Porn Under Siege. Video & discussion of the pornography debate. Sponsored by Rape Prev. Educ. Prog. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 12
Integrating Work & Self: Discover the Work You Are Meant to Do. $45-60. Rm. 130, Clinical Sciences, 521 Parnassus. 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 476-5222 to pre-register.

Sat., Feb. 26
Basic Home Repair Workshop — Plumbing. $45-60. Rm. 517, Nursing Bldg., enter through 513 Parnassus. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 476-5222 to pre-register.

Volunteer Orientation

Program to acquaint prospective volunteers with opportunities available in the Medical Center at UCSF in Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute Auditorium, 401 Parnassus (P), and at UCSF/Mount Zion in Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero (MZ). For further information call 476-1196 (P) or 885-7353 (MZ).

Tues., Jan. 11, 9 a.m.-noon. (P)
Tues., Jan. 11, 5-7:30 p.m. (MZ)
Tues., Jan. 25, 9-11:45 a.m. (MZ)
Tues., Jan. 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (P)
Tues., Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-noon. (P)
Tues., Feb. 8, 5-7:30 p.m. (MZ)
Tues., Feb. 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (P)
Tues., Feb. 22, 9-11:45 a.m. (MZ)

Senior Lecture Series

UCSF Medical Group/Seniority Plus presents the Senior Lecture Series with free lectures on the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at various locations. Call 476-0373.

Jan. 10
Staying Well Through Mind, Body & Spirit. Lakeside Presbyterian Church, corner of Eucalyptus & 19th Ave.

Feb. 14
Keeping Your Heart Healthy. Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero.

Blood Donation

Tues., Jan. 11
Campus Blood Drive. Blood may be given at the Millberry Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

You don't have to wait for a blood drive to give blood. You may donate any weekday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., or Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at UCSF's Blood Donor Center, Rm. 131 Long Hospital, 505 Parnassus. For information & appointments call 476-6989.

Cancer Referral Hotline

The UCSF Cancer Referral Service enables cancer patients to place just one telephone call and learn the names of UCSF doctors specializing in the kind of treatment they need. Call 1-800-888-8664.

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February 1994
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UC San Francisco

Cole Hall Cinema

Cole Hall Cinema has re-opened. The first movie in the new line-up is **Snow White,** which will play on Thurs. & Fri., Jan. 13 & 14. Call 476-2542 for a complete schedule & a list of bargain ticket prices. Thank you for your patience during the construction.

Recreation & Fitness

Millberry Fitness Center offers over 100 classes and workshops. Registration for the general public begins **Tues., Jan. 4.** Call 476-1115 for information & a free brochure.

Wednesdays, Jan. 12-Mar. 2
Staying Well . . . Strategies for Health, Wellness & Optimal Aging. Learn why lifestyle outweighs heredity. $125. Call 476-1710.

Tues. & Wed., Feb. 1 & 2
Cholesterol Screening. $40. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 476-0350.

Sat., Feb. 5 & 12
Self Defense Workshop. $59. Call 476-0350 for more information.

Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences

Lectures on alternative medicine & therapies are free and held on Fridays at noon in Rm. 721, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. Call Marie Lehrer at 584-4416 for a complete schedule of events.

At the Heart of It

At the Heart of It, a cardiac support group for heart patients experiencing fear, anxiety, confusion & stress, is facilitated by a cardiac social worker and a registered nurse. Meets at UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero. For further information call 885-7227.

Outdoors Unlimited

Outdoors Unlimited is a cooperative resource center for outdoor recreation and adventure, serving both the UCSF campus and the general public. It provides skills training, equipment rentals, trip planning information and a place to meet others with similar interests. For information or a quarterly listing of trips and clinics, call 476-2078.

Fri.-Mon., Jan. 14-17
MLK Weekend Ski Holiday. Cross-country skiing at Mount Lassen. $70/105/115.

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 22 & 23
Alpine/Snowboard/Telemark Trip: North Tahoe. Lift-served winter fun with two nights lodging. $50/65/70.

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco
News and Public Information Services
3333 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

Doctors told him he had so little oxygen in his blood that he should be comatose.

Getting emphysema isn't easy.

It took Dick Atkins almost a lifetime to destroy his lungs. He started smoking in high school. He stole unfiltered Lucky Strikes from his parents. After graduation, he bought his own. He progressed to a pack a day. He quit for 10 years, a mutual pact with his late wife. But he went back to it in 1968. He then smoked up to two packs a day.

The effects of smoking crept up slowly. He coughed when he climbed the steep stairs on Telegraph Hill as he walked to and from work at a downtown stock brokerage firm. And he became quickly winded in the thin mountain air during his frequent trips to the Sierra ski slopes. He ignored the warnings. "I did a great job of kidding myself," he says.

Dick had always said he would quit smoking before things got too bad. So he finally did quit, about six years ago. But Dick had miscalculated. Things got worse. He felt more and more fatigued. His judgement became cloudy.

Dick's decision to seek treatment at UC San Francisco came in a flash after nearly collapsing while climbing a short flight of stairs in Salt Lake City. Once home, he suddenly realized that one of the country's most advanced medical institutions lay just a few miles away.

At the UCSF Chest Clinic, doctors performed a battery of tests, including a test to measure the amount of oxygen in Dick's blood. The result of the oxygen test astounded them. They told Dick that he had so little oxygen in his blood that by all rights he should be comatose.

Dick went straight from the clinic to UCSF's Long Hospital, where he was diagnosed with emphysema. Dick was released a few days later with a portable oxygen tank. He would be hooked up to that tank 24 hours a day for the next several months. At that point, Dick's prognosis was death in a few years, or a longer life gradually robbed of its quality.

As it turned out, Dick's decision to seek help at UCSF in the summer of 1991 was particularly timely. That October pulmonary medicine specialist Jeff Golden, MD, and cardiothoracic surgeon Fraser Keith, MD, started a lung transplant program, joining a handful of programs nationally.

Dick was at home cooking dinner when he got the call five months later. A 28-year-old man had just died in Portland, Oregon. Keith flew to Portland by emergency transport jet plane, returning with an ice chest containing the donor's left lung. Keith would replace only one lung because survival rates are better with single-lung transplants than double-lung transplants. And the body needs only one lung to survive.

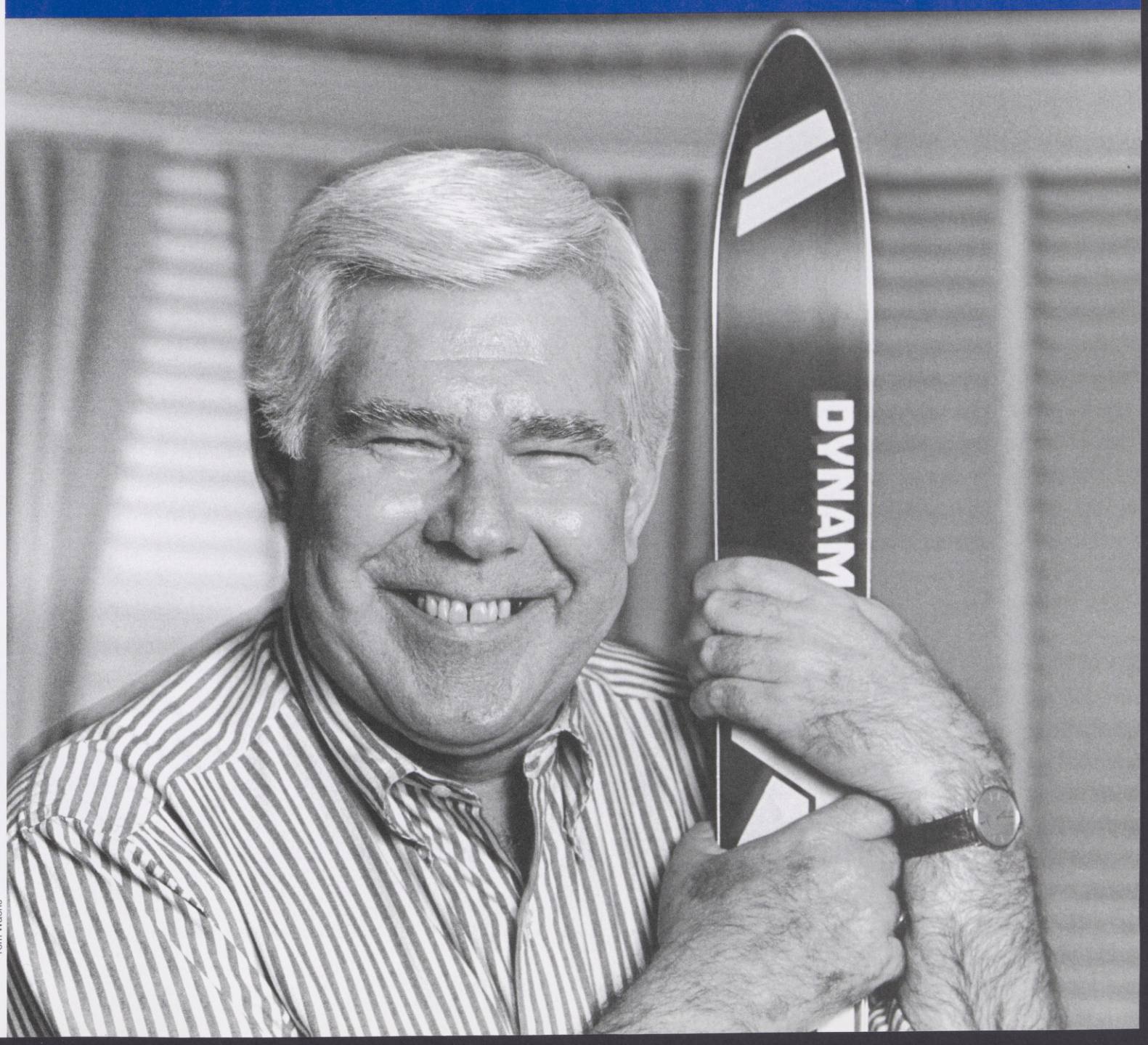
At midnight on March 28, 1992, Dick was wheeled into the operating room. The surgery took four hours.

The trickiest part of Dick's transplantation came in the days after surgery when Golden had to adjust medications to forestall two rejection episodes and delirium caused by a toxic reaction. Dick spent a month in the hospital. With conscientious physical and pulmonary therapy, he steadily gained strength following his release.

Last winter Dick met again with Golden — but this time it was on the ski slopes of Heavenly Valley near Lake Tahoe. He made three runs — and barely felt winded.

— Marshall Krantz

(For more information on UCSF's heart/lung transplant program, please call 476-2606.)



Tom Wachs

January/February 1994

To Our Neighbors

New Cancer Awareness Program for Latinos

Prenatal Drug — More Harm than Good?

Youth Deal with the Disease of Their Time

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco
513 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

More News for You

Youth Deal with AIDS —*the* Disease of Their Time

At Bret Harte Junior High School in Oakland, teacher Elizabeth Chiment announces that night's homework assignment: "Write on, 'What is AIDS?' And tomorrow we will watch the film 'And the Band Played On,' which chronicles the AIDS epidemic."

The 16 ninth-graders were specially selected for Chiment's peer teaching class because in one way or another — either through athletic prowess, academic achievement, student leadership, or just plain charisma — they are the kids that other kids listen to.

After receiving training from Chiment, the students will go into seventh-grade world history classes once a week for eight weeks to explain about AIDS, high-risk sexual behavior, and how to make choices free of peer pressure.

Chiment's class is part of the Oakland Schools Project and UCSF's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS), the largest consolidated research effort in the country focusing on the social and behavioral aspects of AIDS prevention and early intervention. CAPS, under director Thomas Coates, PhD, is the only National Institute of Mental Health-funded center in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to AIDS prevention research.

According to all involved, the seventh graders are responding enthusiastically, especially to the more participatory activities, such as role-playing peer-pressure situations.

"The most important thing is to prevent HIV infection," says project co-director Marie Ekstrand, PhD. "We will be looking at whether those students who have intercourse when they get older use condoms."

"I'm constantly amazed and filled with hope by these students," says Chiment. "They are so willing to face this disease, which is a disease of their time, and to deal with it with compassion. This really is youth at its best."

David Powers

Ninth-grade peer helper Jeana Tracy

SFGH Has New Community Council

San Francisco General Hospital held its first meeting in October of its newly established Community Advisory Council (CAC). The Council was formed to advise Richard Cordova, SFGH executive director, and the leadership of the hospital about community health care needs and concerns. The CAC also will serve as a support and advocacy group for SFGH. The CAC currently is composed of 20 members, with five additional seats to be filled, and includes SFGH patients, neighbors, business leaders, planners, community agency representatives, medical professionals and community advocates.

Gene Therapy Core Center

A new Gene Therapy Core Center that will develop new treatments and transfer them from laboratory bench to hospital bedside has been established at UCSF. The center will make and apply new discoveries to treat cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia and other inherited genetic disorders by correcting genetic defects through gene therapy.

The UCSF Gene Therapy Core Center is one of just three to be established with support from the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases, and it is the only such center in California. NIH funding for the Center will be up to $2.25 million over five years.

The Center will be directed by Y.W. Kan, MD, chief of the Division of Molecular Medicine & Diagnostics.